### Chapter 5 – Interactions in the Ecosystem

# Habitats and Niches

* 1. Habitat – place where an organism lives.
  2. Niche – role of an organism.

1. Niche diversity – number of different niches in an

ecosystem.

**II. Evolution and Adaptation** – change in the characteristics of a

species over time.

1. Evolving in a niche
   1. Specialized species – small niche.
   2. Generalized species – large niche.

#### Convergent evolution – development of similar adaptations

in two species with similar niches; i.e. wings of birds and

bats.

C. Coevolution – species which interact closely and become

adapted to one another; i.e. plants a